

## Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 L-03 OES-03 /021 W

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R 271456Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9499

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 0196

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CSCE, CZ

SUBJECT: EXCHANGES AGREEMENT

REF: PRAGUE 0176

1. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT JAN 26 ON CSCE AND BILATERAL RELATIONS, DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER SPACIL SAID: "THE CZECHOSLOVAK SOCIALIST REPUBLIC ALSO CONSISTENTLY APPLIES THE FINAL ACT PROVISIONS ON COOPERATION IN HUMANITARIAN AND OTHER FIELDS AND IS READY TO START SHORTLY TALKS ON A SCIENTIFIC, TECHNOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL AGREEMENT." (NOTE THAT SINGULAR IS USED.)

2. IN HIS REMARKS AFTERWARD, SPACIL SAID THIS WAS FORMAL NOTIFICATION THAT THE CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE HAD STUDIED THE US TEXT PRESENTED OCT 17, 1975 AND WAS NOW READY TO BEGIN OFFICIAL NEGOTIATIONS AS SOON AS THE US SIDE WAS READY. CHARGE SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS PROMPTLY AND HOPED IT WOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE HE WAS AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS.

3. COMMENT. DEPARTMENT AND USIA WILL BE IN BEST POSITION TO JUDGE HOW WE SHOULD ADAPT OUR TACTICS TO STRATEGIC NECIESSITY (IF SUCH IT REMAINS) OF PHASING OUR NEGOTIATIONS WITH BUDAPEST'S AND  
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SOFIA'S. WE HAVE SAID BEFORE THAT IT MIGHT BE

PREFERABLE TO DELAY START OF NEGOTIATIONS (IN WHICH GOC HAS SO FAR HELPED US) RATHER THAN STOPPING IN MID-STREAM OR ELSE CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS AND THEN PUTTING ON A LONG HOLD BEFORE SIGNING. FROM EMBASSY'S POINT OF VIEW AT PRESENT, IT APPEARS THAT THERE ARE SOME PROMISING NEW SIGNS OF CZECHOSLOVAK READINESS TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE EXCHANGES FIELD, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS AND GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING--AS LONG AS DOING SO HELPS RATHER THAN HINDERS OUR OVERALL RELATIONS. (ANOTHER ELEMENT IN TIMING COULD BE ARRIVAL OF OUR NEW AMBASSADOR, ABOUT WHICH EMBASSY IS OF COURSE UNINFORMED.) ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, IT SEEMS PREFERABLE TO US TO GET THE NEGOTIATIONS (WHICH MAY WELL LAST SEVERAL MONTHS ANYWAY) STARTED RATHER THAN WAITING FOR ANY MORE PROPITIOUS MOMENT. THEREFORE OUR RECOMMENDATION IS THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO BEGIN FORMAL TALKS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.  
PERRY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TREATY COMPLIANCE, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, COLLECTIVE SECURITY AGREEMENTS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ullricre  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PRAGUE00196  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760032-0983  
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**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 80  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 PRAGUE 176  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ullricre  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by ullricre>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXCHANGES AGREEMENT  
**TAGS:** PFOR, CZ, US, CSCE  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006